

Montreal Emigrant Society.

At a Meeting of the Society, held at the Emigrant Office, on the 24th of August, 1832, the Recording Secretary reported the number of Emigrants forwarded to different parts of Upper and Lower Canada, and the number for whom employment has been procured, since the commencement of the Society's proceedings, in the month of May last, as follows:—

Return of the Number of Poor and Destitute Emigrants forwarded by the Montreal Emigrant Society from 23d May to 22d August, 1832.

Emigrants above 60.....	77
40.....	785
20.....	2316
14.....	1130
7.....	2490

Total forwarded,.... 6798

Employment procured for Labourers,	938
as Servants,	197

Total number Relieved,.... 7933

JOHN C. GUNOLACK, *Recording Secretary.*

Montreal, 22d August, 1832.

Cost..... £1220 0 11½.

The Corresponding Secretary read the following correspondence between the President of the Society and the Chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes, and between the last-named gentleman and himself:—

From the Chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes to the President of the Emigrant Society.

SIR,—The Citizen's Committee will feel much obliged by your informing them, whether any impediment exists to granting tickets to Emigrants going up the Ottawa, who may be destitute of means, as well as up the St. Lawrence.

There are several of this description now at the Sheds, who are anxious to get away without delay.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

J. DE WITT, Esq. }
President E. S. }

C. J. FORBES, *Chairman.*

From the President of the Emigrant Society to the Chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes.

MONTREAL, 17th July, 1832.

DEAR SIR,—Your note without date, in which you say, that the Citizen's Committee will feel much obliged by my informing them, whether any impediment exists to granting tickets to Emigrants going up the Ottawa, who may be destitute of means, as well as up the St. Lawrence, was this day received.

In reply, I beg leave to state to you, that the Emigrant Society of Montreal have forwarded, every day, all the Emigrants who have applied, since the 3d instant, for passages up the St. Lawrence, and considered entitled to relief, except yesterday, when the operations of the Society

were suspended one day, in consequence of the want of boats; we on this day continue our operations, and trust we shall be able to forward all the destitute who may be bound up the St. Lawrence.

The Emigrant Society have not been able to make any arrangement as yet to facilitate the passage of destitute Emigrants who are bound up the Ottawa, although we have endeavoured to accomplish that object. I beg leave to add, that *only a very small number of persons have applied for passages to that part of the Canadas.*

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 16th instant. Inclosed I hand you the communication from Cheesman Moe, Esq. and have to add, that all the members of the Emigrant Society of Montreal, who have had communication of Mr. Moe's letter, considered the facts therein contained were designed for the information of our Society, to enable us to communicate intelligence to the Emigrants we might forward. We paid 1s. 3d. on Mr. Moe's letter, which please send us.

I have the honor to be,

With the highest consideration,

Your most obedient humble servant,

C. J. FORBES, Esq. }
Chairman of the }
Citizen's Committee.

JACOB DE WITT,
President of the Emigrant
Society at Montreal.

From the Chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes to the President of the Emigrant Society.

MONTREAL, 22d July, 1832.

SIR,—As most of the families that are provided with tickets from the Emigrant Office call upon, or are sent to me, to state that they are not provided with means to purchase provisions for their voyage up the country, and as I cannot conceive that this proceeding can meet with the sanction of the Emigrant Board, as the Act provides for the expenses of distressed Emigrants being paid upwards, which naturally includes the means of subsistence as well as passage, I shall feel very much obliged by your informing the gentlemen, who are in the habit of so directing them, that the funds of the Committee, of which I am the Chairman, have a particular destination, and that I am not permitted to direct them to any other purpose. It causes the poor people to lose their time, and I can afford them no redress.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your very obedient servant,

J. DE WITT, Esq. }
President of the }
Emigrant Society.

C. J. FORBES, Chairman.

From the President of the Emigrant Society to the Chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes.

MONTREAL, 22d July, 1832.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date. In reply, have to say, that none of the Emigrants, who have been provided with tickets at this Office, have been sent by our Board to you, to state that they are not provided for their voyage up the country. A very few cases who could not expect to better their situation by going to the country, and whom, therefore, the law did not permit us to relieve, have been recommended to your favourable consideration.

We have no power to prevent the public, in whose opinion you and the gentlemen composing your Committee deservedly stand so high for charity and benevolence, from sending Emigrants to you for assistance, nor can we prevent the Emigrants from calling on you when they think proper. I agree with you, that the Act provides for the expenses of distressed Emigrants being paid upwards, and, at the discretion of the Emigrant Society at Montreal, may include the means of subsistence. Very few of the Emigrants but have the means, either in money or provisions, to furnish themselves with subsistence on their voyage. The experience of the Society has convinced us, that supplying poor people with provisions has caused them to lose their time. If you will take the trouble to examine the Emigrants now in the Sheds, I think also you will be convinced; for we are assured, that the provisions daily given by your Committee have induced a great number to remain, who have been provided with tickets for several days.

Agreeable to your request, your communication shall be made known to all the members of the Society who attend at this Office.

I am,

With great regard,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient humble servant,

C. J. FORBES, Esq. }
Chairman of the
Citizen's Committee. }

JACOB DE WITT,
President of the Emigrant
Society at Montreal.

From the Corresponding Secretary of the Emigrant Society to the Chairman of the Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes.

{ MONTREAL EMIGRANT SOCIETY'S OFFICE,
17th August, 1832.

SIR,—On the part of the Emigrant Society, I beg to send you the inclosed return of the number of Emigrants in the Sheds at Point St. Charles, made on the 15th instant by the Society's Clerk. This return shows, that one family has been there six weeks,—three families five weeks,—sixteen families four weeks,—fifteen families three weeks,—twelve families two weeks,—and twenty-two families one week,—and that, consequently, only nine families have been there less than one week.—That the whole number then in the Sheds was 335,—of whom only 14 were sick,—and that 65 of them have in their possession passage tickets from the Emigrant Society. I beg leave further to state, that both the Clerk and Secretary of the Society have repeatedly visited these Sheds, with the view of inducing the inmates to apply for passage tickets; but I regret to say their visits have been of little avail.

As it must, of course, be the object of the Emigrant Society to forward the Emigrants as speedily as possible, they do not give provisions with passage tickets, except in very urgent cases, lest (as they have often found by experience) the individuals obtaining them should thereby be induced to remain until the provisions are consumed. And as the Emigrant Society are persuaded, that one object of your association is merely to afford shelter and provisions only to such Emigrants as are wholly destitute, until they can be forwarded, they beg leave respectfully to suggest, that some regulation, having for its object the sojourn of Emigrants in the Sheds, for as short a period as possible, should be strictly enforced. I beg, in conclusion, to assure you of the Emigrant Society's desire cordially to co-operate with the Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes, in any measure which may promise the most certain prospect of relieving the city of an Emigrant pauper population before the close of the navigation, and thus avert the evils which must result from their detention, in any considerable number, during the winter.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

HON. PETER M'GILL, }
acting Chairman of the
Committee for Emigrant
and Sanitary purposes. }

JOHN BETHUNE,
Cor. Sec. M. E. S.

From the Chairman of the Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes to the Corresponding Secretary of the Emigrant Society.

MONTREAL, 19th August, 1832.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, addressed to the Honourable Peter M'Gill.

In reply thereto, I beg to state, that I was fully aware of all the circumstances it contained. A further inquiry would have informed your Clerk and Secretary of the reasons why certain families were detained at the Sheds, and even those who were in possession of Emigrant Office tickets,—reasons perfectly satisfactory to the Committee, of which I have the honor to be Chairman.

It would, in a great degree, facilitate the removal of families, if the Emigrant Society would digest some plan by which the utterly destitute might be victualled on their voyage to Prescott and Bytown. The Act provides, "for defraying the expenses of pauper Emigrants to the Upper Country;" and I should presume that subsistence formed a material item of expense.

I take this opportunity of mentioning, that several instances have occurred where Emigrants have been directed by me to apply at the Emigrant Office to get their tickets exchanged for Bytown instead of Prescott, when it has come under the cognizance of the Emigrant and Sanitary Committee that ready employment could be found for them in that quarter. As many of these people have no particular destination, and their object is to find employment, it would be well to grant this indulgence on all occasions; for it must be immaterial to your Society how they are disposed of, so long as their removal from Montreal is effected.

I beg leave to suggest, at the same time, whether it would not be politic to grant tickets to sons of these destitute families, in order that they may not be separated in a country altogether strange to them. When they are single men they may work their way upwards, or find a few days employment until they could furnish themselves with means, but where their aged parents, or, perhaps, a large family of young brothers and sisters, are dependent almost entirely upon elder brothers, such families are frequently deprived of the means to move onwards, or, perhaps, do not wish to do so without moving all together.

The unparalleled hardships these unfortunate people have had, and still have, to contend with, by the present mode adopted for their transmission, has called the serious attention of the Emigrant and Sanitary Committee to their case. After diligent inquiry and a laborious correspondence, they have drawn up a minute on the subject, which has been transmitted, with the necessary explanations, to Lord Aylmer, Sir John Colborne, and Mr. Buchanan, the chief Agent for Emigrants at Quebec; a copy of which I beg to transmit herewith, for the information of your Society.

Since it was drawn up I have received the assurance of Colonel By, that no duty shall be levied on steerage passengers on the Rideau Canal.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your very obedient servant,

C. J. FORBES, Chairman.

Rev. JOHN BETHUNE,
Cor. Sec. Emigrant
Society, Montreal.

Enclosure referred to in Mr. Forbes' Letter.

At a Meeting of the CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE for EMIGRANT and SANITARY PURPOSES, held at the COURT-HOUSE at MONTREAL, on Monday, the 23d July, 1832, the following important subject engaged its attention:—

"THE numberless difficulties that have been thrown in the way of the poor Emigrants, to prevent or delay their progress from this to the Upper Province, has induced the Committee so far to outstep the line of its duty, that, in addition to providing shelter and food for the friendless and destitute on the spot, to endeavour to facilitate their passage onwards, in order that they may arrive in Upper Canada in time to make their services available for the harvest, and thereby procure for themselves a portion of the means to subsist their families through the winter.

In the course of the Committee's inquiries the following particulars have resulted:—1st, That very little zeal has been manifested by the Forwarders, in persuading or encouraging Batteau and Durham boatmen, by extra pay, in the outset of our difficulties, to embark the Emigrants.

2dly, That no special means have been adopted to punish, by fine or otherwise, those who abandoned their boats on their passage upwards, and left their unfortunate passengers to shift for themselves, in a country where they were perfect strangers, and where the inhabitants, from a dread of infection, would naturally avoid intercourse with them; and for which dereliction of obligation a heavy responsibility ought to rest somewhere.

3dly, When confidence was restored, the poor and indigent were permitted to remain in the Emigrant Sheds, although they had been in possession of tickets for many days, when at the same time boats could readily be procured to convey those who had ample means to pay for the transport of themselves and their luggage.

4thly, That only 30 lbs. of baggage is allowed to an adult, and none for the families of poor Emigrants by the forwarding contract, which scarcely gives a change of clothes to these unfortunates; and for the remainder 4s. 6d. per cwt. is demanded from those who have very frequently not the means to purchase for themselves, their wives and children, a scanty supply of provisions for the voyage.

5thly, A ticket is, to be sure, given to applicants in need, at the Emigrant Office,—but afterwards they are left to shift for themselves without any information as to their further proceeding; and but little trouble is taken at the Forwarder's Office to instruct them,—for the most part they obtain from the man in charge of the office, if the Forwarder be not in the way, a repulsive answer, and no information.

These particulars having been ascertained by the Committee, the Chairman has called upon the Steamboat Proprietors on the Ottawa, to ascertain whether they would be willing, and at

what rate, to undertake the transport of distressed Emigrants to Kingston, and its intermediate places through the Rideau.

These gentlemen most willingly lend themselves to the views of the Committee, and have expressed themselves perfectly disposed to convey them on terms not exceeding those granted to the Forwarders on the St. Lawrence, provided the Rideau Canal duty is remitted.

The advantage, therefore, to be gained by this is to the Emigrant two-fold.

1st, In insuring their arrival in Kingston within six days of their quitting Montreal, instead of from eight to sixteen by the St. Lawrence, or longer, according as the westerly winds may prevail, subject during that time to every variation of the season, to the manifest injury of the health of the men, women and children, and to have their baggage wet and spoiled; whereas from La Chine, by the Ottawa, with the exception of the trifling portage between Carillon and Grenville, they are protected and sheltered on board the steamboats the whole way to Kingston.

2dly, They are put to a less expense for provisions, from the shorter time occupied by their journey on the Ottawa route, and thereby making their labour available so much the sooner.

These advantages are not only to the Emigrants and their families, but they are of importance in other respects.

As regards the Emigrant fund, which will be burthened in a less degree, by the Emigrant Society having to supply provisions for six days instead of from eight to sixteen, and perhaps longer.

And the funds of the Upper Province, which have been placed at the disposal of the different Emigrant Societies and Boards of Health by His Excellency Sir John Colborne, which would be considerably relieved by the Ottawa being made the general route as far as Kingston, as it would only require one point, Bytown, to be looked to instead of so many intermediate ones.

The Ottawa Company is at the same time willing to permit these poor Emigrants to take on a considerable quantity more baggage than they are allowed to convey by the Forwarders on the St. Lawrence line.

As the funds placed at the disposal of the Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes will be spared to a considerable extent by the adoption of this project, from the Emigrants being sent forward so much more expeditiously; and as it is the peculiar duty of the Committee so to husband them, that they may be able to extend charitable aid to the thousands who may yet arrive in the country, the Committee finds itself called upon to express a warm feeling of gratitude to the Ottawa Steamboat Company for the liberality its members have displayed; and as there is very little prospect that the Company will derive any adequate compensation for the trouble it will occasion in conveying merely the poorer classes of the Emigrants, the Committee is strongly impressed with the opinion, that the Government Agent at Quebec should point out to the better classes of Emigrants the advantages they will derive from adopting the Ottawa and Rideau route in preference to that of the St. Lawrence, as these could afford to grant the Steamboat Company the same terms that are now given to the St. Lawrence Forwarders.

The Ottawa Company has offered to provide places of reception for all the Emigrants, they may convey, at La Chine, Carillon, Grenville and Bytown, which are the only places where, by possibility, a portion of them might be required to land for a few hours. This advantage is too important, as regards the health and comfort of the Emigrants, to be overlooked by the Committee.

The accompanying letters from the Cedars and Cornwall suffice to prove an absolute necessity that the system of forwarding every class of Emigrants to the Upper Province should undergo an entire change.

On the line of the Ottawa and the Rideau, which is settling very fast, and where great numbers might find employment in agricultural and mechanical pursuits, there always has existed, and still exists, a great demand for labour. Persons with capital to purchase lands may likewise find on this route a desirable location.

C. J. FORBES, *Chairman.*

(COPY.)

CEDARS, July 27, 1832.

DEAR SIR,

WHAT I am about to state would, perhaps, be more regular in being addressed directly to the Board of Health, but feeling persuaded that, in its passage to that body, it will be certain to acquire additional energy from the medium through which I have taken the liberty to submit it for previous consideration; I claim no other shelter from the consequences of the steps I am now taking than the proofs which are so widely disseminated of the earnestness of those endeavours, so beneficially put forth on your part, in the cause of humanity.

The objects of this intimation originate in the united requests of the several gentlemen of this place, whose names have appeared in the public prints as constituting a Board of Health, but whose exertions have, until this late period, been kept under painful restrictions, from the absence of authentic information of their appointments.

I hasten, therefore, to state to you, in the first place, a long train of serious evils resulting (I

trust not designedly so) from the manner in which Emigrants are forwarded in boats, by this route, to the Upper Province. I should be sorry to impeach the characters of the persons connected with this important branch of our inland navigation, on the score of charitable feeling, or as men, but from the sad consequences that arise daily to view, there must be a something very wrong somewhere connected with this branch of business;—the whole would, however, seem to have its origin in the overloaded and crowded state of the boats, and the omission to fumigate those that are partially decked, after the voyage upwards. Almost every day there are instances of Emigrants put ashore with cholera; and yesterday a boat passed, from which there were three put ashore at different points, and it would almost seem as if the malady were diffused from the impure state of the boat itself, for fourteen other cases declared themselves amongst the resident inhabitants along the river on the same day:—two of the Emigrants died, and the third is still doubtful,—they have all large families, and were put ashore without any part of the passage money which they had paid for the whole distance having been returned to them!—thus are we exposed to a dissemination of the disease far and wide, and a comparatively poor population daily becoming more oppressed by numerous objects of poverty. We had been led to expect that the praiseworthy intentions of the Emigrant Society would have checked the spread of disease, but, from some cause not yet ascertained, it manifests itself but too frequently in this quarter, and, if in any degree contagious, there remains no shadow of doubt that it is kept in action, either by the Emigrants coming away from Montreal or La Chine with the malady upon them, or that they contract it from the impure state of the boats; in either case, the numbers falling sick along the river is decidedly influenced by the passing up of the boats having emigrants, and possibly also by those having none, for it frequently occurs that some of the crews are put ashore also. When it is borne in mind that these boats are, to such a great extent, the medium of conveyance for provisions and articles of deposit in the magazines of Montreal, it becomes a matter well worthy of investigation, whether (the principle of contagiousness being admitted) they do not, under the circumstances, constitute a species of revolving disseminators of the disease. There is a certain degree of cruelty in permitting so many Emigrants to crowd into the boats, and particularly so when they are in other respects deeply loaded, for it not only exposes the crews to much additional risk and fatigue, and the property to extra hazard, but is also a great means of engendering disease, of exposing the poor Emigrants to much hardship from the want of shelter, and of vexatious delays from the increased difficulty of getting the boats up the Rapids; the disasters that are of daily occurrence between the Cascades and the Cedars afford ample testimony of the truth of these assertions. In order to lighten the boats sufficiently to get up the Rapids, the Emigrants are (no doubt from the evident necessity of the case) all put ashore at the Cascades, and they are thus compelled to walk, without regard to the state of the roads or weather, as far as the wharf at the Cedars, which, from their being necessitated to carry their provisions and younger children a distance of six miles, they reach in a state of great bodily excitement. If the boat come up in time, they are again taken in, under all the disadvantages of being huddled together in the heated state which their system has just acquired! If the boat do not come up in time, which most frequently occurs, from the great liability to getting a-ground, or the snapping of the tow-line, which sends the boat back to the foot of the Rapids, the poor Emigrants are divided in the sad choice, whether to remain during the night on the wharf at the Cedars, or walk back to the boat, where some of them may chance to have bedding; but in neither event have they any other shelter than the open air, under all the chances of unfavourable weather, for, of late, so great has been the alarm created by cholera, that every door seems to be shut against them, including even taverns (those legally constituted accommodations for travellers!) several of whose hosts have struck their sign boards, shut up their houses, and, in some instances, deserted to the back concessions; these causes combined, all contribute to a forced exposure of the poor Emigrants to fatigue, and cold, and disease, the latter of which, but with very few exceptions, terminates in death!

It has been particularly noticed during the last eight or ten days, that boats passing upwards have been so crowded as to obstruct the proper management of them on the part of the crews;—the day before yesterday there were two, on board of which the poor people could not have found space to change their position!—a few days before, there were several Emigrants left behind in a most distressing situation, having been parted from their provisions, their bedding, and their families. The case was, that their boat being about to be taken in tow at La Chine, was observed to be so overloaded with stores and passengers as to be nearly in a sinking state, so that many of the poor people had to quit it in a moment of confusion and hurry, and take passage in another, which being lighter, got up the Rapids with ease, and so outstripped the heavier one, that the people were under the necessity of retracing their steps, to join their families again!—thus is there every appearance of disease being permanently nourished along this line of the water communication, and a daily accumulation of destitute Emigrants upon this place, which it is but ill able to maintain. The scenes of wretchedness that continually present themselves are most heart-rending; and what adds much to the distress is the want of medical assistance to meet the number of cases,—hence the great mortality that prevails amongst these poor people,—the greatest number of cases occur at the halting places; but there are also many who, on the first symptoms of the malady, are landed at unfrequented points, there to meet a certain and fast approaching fate! In anticipation of pecuniary aid from being led to expect an organised Board of Health, we erected a temporary hospital, on a small scale, and made the necessary arrangements for the treatment of the sick, and by this means have afforded relief to many of the passing

strangers, but the expences are so fast growing upon our hands, that we really shall not be able to uphold this establishment much longer; and sickening as have been the scenes that we have already witnessed, the consequences of a forced suspension of this act of humanity will indeed be most appalling! Having thus, in a hurried, yet I believe correct, strain brought together circumstances of a nature highly deserving the intervention of some regular constituted body or institution, we place them at your disposal, with every confidence that they will be put in train to arrest the progress, if practicable, of occurrences so evidently calculated to produce much public inconvenience and calamity.

On my own behalf, and that of the several persons who have requested me to frame this appeal, I beg to remain, Dear Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

C. J. FORBES, Esq. }
Montreal. }

JAMES THOMPSON.

(COPY.)

CORNWALL, 24th July, 1832.

SIR,

I HAVE to state for His Excellency's information, that a Durham boat, of the second size or class, arrived here early on Sunday morning with one hundred and forty-one Emigrants on board, besides a vast deal of luggage, twenty-five barrels of salt, and the crew. The emigrants had tickets for a free passage, from the Chairman of the Emigrant Society at Montreal, a Mr. De Witt, to their forwarding Contractor, W. L. Whiting; they appeared as if they had been huddled into the boat, with about the same feeling that a load of pigs would be shipped at Prescott for the Montreal market. The forwarder, I understand, alleges as an excuse, that they crowded into the boat in spite of him. But he must allow, that he weighed the luggage of each individual, before it was put into the boat, for each hundred weight of which he received four shillings from the Emigrant, independent of his ticket, and that if any one of them had shipped his luggage, before it was weighed and paid for, that it would have been instantly unshipped. Surely, then, if to serve his interests, he could find force and power sufficient to remove the luggage, he could, with the same force and power, have regulated the loading of the boat, with some regard to the common feelings of humanity. Mr. Hawke, who informed me, that he had been sent forward as agent to Montreal, arrived here from thence a few evenings before the boat came, when he had seen her in Montreal, and had remonstrated with Mr. Whiting on the state that she was in, he made the excuse I before stated, and promised that forty of the tickets should be transferred to another boat, and, apparently, took such measures as to convince Mr. Hawke that it would be done; who communicated the circumstances to Mr. Forbes, and was recommended by him to proceed immediately to this place, in order to consult with the Magistrates and Board of Health here and myself, and to ascertain whether there was a power in either, to put an effectual stop to the shameful proceeding. A magistrate, a member of the Board of Health, declared there was no such power; and never did I regret the absence of it more than since I have been in the situation I now hold. It is very painful to be obliged to look tamely on, whilst imposition and brutality are committing uncontrolled depredations upon these poor creatures, in the protection of whom I would not only cheerfully discharge a duty, but feel the utmost pleasure in the execution of it. If I had been authorized, I would have reduced the number considerably in this boat, and employed waggoners at the expense of the forwarder. Instead of sending them up by contract, if their conveyance was thrown open to all the forwarders, it is very likely they would get their luggage up at a cheaper rate, and they would, undoubtedly, get up themselves with more comfort.

Mr. Hawke luckily had not left when the boat arrived, and, therefore, had an opportunity of seeing that not one of the number had been taken out, or yet any portion of the baggage or cargo. I have requested that he would represent the circumstance, and the hardship and impositions of this route, in the strongest colours to Mr. Forbes, and to engage the attention of that liberal-minded and noble-hearted gentleman to the subject.

It would be a great relief if the route could be, up the Ottawa and through the Rideau Canal to Kingston.

The boat with this overload of souls remained all Sunday at the foot of the Rapids above the town. I made them all get out, got them under the shade of the trees, and persuaded the mothers to wash their children, and get their bedding and loose clothes out and spread on the bank of the river. They seemed quite refreshed towards the evening.

I have, &c.

Lieut. Col. ROWAN, }
Civil Secretary, }
York. }

(Signed) CHEESMAN MOE.

In reference to the Letter from the Chairmap of the Citizens' Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes, addressed to the Corresponding Secretary of this Society, it was unanimously resolved,

1st, That however satisfactory the reasons alluded to by the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes, for the long detention of Emigrants in the Sheds at Point St. Charles, may be to that Committee, they can have no weight with this Society, inasmuch as no communication of them has been made.

2d, That this Society (with the exception of a short period of about ten days, during which the proper kind of provision could not be obtained) has victualled, and does continue to victual destitute Emigrant families on their voyage to Upper Canada, whenever it has appeared, or may appear expedient to this Society, in the exercise of their discretion, to do so.

3d, That this Society did not, at the commencement of the navigation season, enter into any contract for forwarding Emigrants by the line of the Ottawa River, because, according to the tenders made to them for that object, each individual landed at Bytown would have cost the Society more than each individual landed at York, when sent by the line of the St. Lawrence. That repeated applications were made by the Society, from time to time, to the Steamboat owners on the Ottawa River, for such a reduction in their prices as would enable this Society, to forward Emigrants to Bytown and the intermediate places on the Ottawa, at a rate somewhat approximating to the terms of their contract for the like distances on the St. Lawrence; but such a reduction could not be obtained until very recently, and the Society are now availing themselves of it with regard to those few pauper Emigrants, who prefer a settlement on the Ottawa, as is well known to the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes. But that nevertheless this Society, swayed by no motive but their duty to the Emigrants and the public, cannot see that Emigrants forwarded by the line of the Ottawa River and Rideau Canal to Kingston, even if sufficient means could be procured on that route, would be less exposed to the inclemency of the weather, than by the route of the St. Lawrence; nor can they discover any sufficient advantage to be looked for from the Ottawa route, to induce them to give it any preference. On the contrary, the St. Lawrence is, at present, the cheapest and the most certain route.

4th, That the Act of the Provincial Legislature, by which the proceedings of this Society must be regulated, leaves them no discretion with regard to the forwarding of young men uncumbered with families. But this Society do recognize and act upon the principle of including, in passage tickets for families, the grown up sons of destitute Emigrants, in all cases where it may appear to the Society necessary to prevent the separation of the members of such family.

5th, That this Society has changed tickets for Bytown, which were originally given for other quarters, whenever it has appeared to them to be for the advantage of the Emigrant seeking for such change.

In reference to the printed minute communicated by the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes, it was unanimously resolved,

1st, That this Society are perfectly satisfied with the zeal, assiduity and humanity, evinced by Mr. Whiting, their Contractor, for forwarding Emigrants, who has spared neither extra trouble nor expense in the execution of his arduous duty, in a time of unexampled public calamity;—a calamity of which this Society feel themselves bound, in common with their Contractor, to share the unfortunate results, as far as they may have affected their respective duties.

2d, That the Contractor did manifest very great zeal, "in the outset of our difficulties," in his endeavours to fulfil his Contract; and did not hesitate to incur an expense of more than one hundred pounds for transporting by waggons, those settlers who, about the 15th of June last, had been sent off from Montreal in boats, which on their passage upwards, were abandoned by their crews.

3d, That at the period abovementioned, so great was the panic created among boatmen by the dreadful ravages of the cholera, that not even those forwarders who had property to an immense amount, for the safety of which they were responsible, placed in jeopardy by the abandonment of boats by their crews, along almost the whole line of communication from Lachine to Prescott,—not even those forwarders, who had so large a personal interest at stake, could by entreaty, by extra pay, or by threats of punishment, induce them to return to their duty.

4th, That "when confidence was restored" destitute Emigrants were forwarded by this Society, as the Chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes was well informed by the letters addressed to him, on the 17th and 22d July, by the President of the Emigrant Society, stating that *all who had made application for Tickets*, were then forwarded. But that this Society are well aware that many "were permitted to remain in the Emigrant Sheds," by other authority, and are still detained there for several weeks, by the supply of provisions dealt out to them by the Citizens' Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes.

5th, That the allowance of luggage included in all the passage tickets of this Society, amounts, on the average, to something more than one hundred weight for each family; and that this regulation is based on the principle, that families having any considerable quantity more than one hundred weight, cannot be considered in that state of destitution which would entitle them to the bounty of the Society.

6th, That before a passage ticket is given to any Emigrant family, great pains are taken to ascertain what particular object they have in view in desiring to be forwarded to any particular place;—every information is given them for their benefit, and they are invariably forwarded, when practicable, to the place they may then desire. And that moreover, the Society have acted

upon the principle of sending Emigrants as far into Upper Canada as their funds will allow, with the view of thus giving to the people of that Province, by the only mode in which it can be done, a share of the money raised under the Emigration Act.

7th, That this Society are convinced, that the reflections cast upon Mr. Whiting and others, in the Letter signed by a Mr. Cheesman Moe, and printed by the Citizens' Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes, are wholly without foundation; a conclusion to which they are led by the fact, that no Emigrant's passage ticket has been signed, this season, by Mr. De Witt, as asserted by the aforesaid Mr. Moe; and by the manifest absurdity of the whole Letter.

8th, That this Society cannot help remarking, on the long period which has elapsed between the adoption of the printed minute of the Citizens' Committee, and the communication of it to the Emigrant Society; more especially as it refers to subjects of so much apparent importance in the estimation of the Committee. And they must further remark that the two Letters on which the Citizens' Committee profess to ground some of the most important items of that minute, are dated subsequent to the date of the meeting at which the minute is stated to have been drawn up.

9th, That, in conclusion, this Society cannot withhold the strong expression of their sincere regret at the uncourteous and accusatory spirit, manifested in the Letter of the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee for Emigrant and Sanitary purposes, and in the printed minute transmitted therewith, in reply to the respectful representations and suggestions, and to the offer of cordial co-operation made by the Society. But that this Society are nevertheless prepared to co-operate cordially with the Citizens' Committee, in any measure for the advantage of Emigrants which they are authorized to adopt, and which may appear to them beneficial, whenever the said Committee may manifest a disposition for such cordial co-operation.

JACOB DE WITT,
President of the Emigrant
Society at Montreal.

*11 March 1871
 President of
 the Atlantic
 Emigrant Society*

A
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 Report

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MONTREAL EMIGRANT SOCIETY.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Montreal was convened on Monday the 24th day of October, 1831, at the Albion Hotel, Notre Dame Street, to receive the Report of the Emigrant Society, and to take into consideration measures connected with Emigration, HORATIO GATES, Esquire, in the Chair; the following Resolutions and Report were unanimously adopted.

REPORT.

<i>The Emigrant Society of Montreal, Dr.</i>		
To forwarding 4028 Emigrants to different parts of Upper and Lower Canada, - - - - -	£516	18 5
To provision for the above, - - - - -	47	2 6
To building and repairing Emigrants' Shed, - - - - -	75	0 0
To Superintendent's salary, - - - - -	25	0 0
To, advanced Mr. Livingston for stone breaking, - - - - -	75	0 0
To stationary, printing, &c. - - - - -	12	10 0
	£751	8 11

<i>Cr.</i>		
By amount of subscriptions and donations, £552	13	4
By nett proceeds of stone breaking, - - - - -	94	0 0
By provisions on hand, - - - - -	3	5 0
By passage tickets returned—amount, - - - - -	25	0 0
	£671	8 11

Due by the Society, - - - - - 10 7
From this statement it appears that each Emigrant (including the expense of the shed) has cost the Society on an average, *three shillings & four pence*; a sum which must be allowed, to be very inconsiderable, when it is known that the greater proportion of the whole has been forwarded as far as Prescott; the mere cost of forwarding including provisions has not been more than *two shillings and nine pence* for each.

In addition to the portion forwarded to different parts of the two Provinces, labour has been procured by the Society for *six hundred* persons; *two hundred and fifty* have been provided with places as servants; so that, on the whole, provision of some sort has been made by the Society, in the space of about four months, for *four thousand eight hundred and seventy two* poor and friendless strangers, at an expense of £671 8 11, being an average of about *two shillings and nine pence* each. Medicines, and medical assistance have been dispensed at the emigrant shed, by the kind liberality of Drs. Stephenson, Vallée, and Demers, to about *six hundred*.

Your Committee cannot refrain from calling your attention to the important item of stone breaking. The employment of applicants in this way, it will be recollected, was adopted in the first instance as a test for the detection of imposture; and your committee are happy to have it in their power to state, that while it has fully answered this important purpose where it has been so applied, it has also been the means of adding the sum of £19 to the funds of the Society.

These important results of the labours of the Society, your committee are persuaded, will be duly appreciated by that generous public, whose benevolent contributions have, under Providence, afforded you the exalted Christian gratification of conferring upon so many thousands the most substantial benefits; but these obvious results, it may reasonably be concluded, are not the only benefits flowing from the labours of the Montreal Emigrant Society. It would be difficult to form any idea of the appalling scenes of disease, which but for your exertions, must during the past summer have been met with in all parts of the town; or of the wretched beggary which, during the ensuing winter, must have infested our streets; let it not then be doubted, that the same generous public which has already done so much, will cheerfully go one step further, and relieve your finances from

their present embarrassment, and afford you the means, during the remainder of this season, of keeping open the hospitable door of your office so long as one destitute emigrant shall be found there seeking a portion of the relief which has been afforded to so many thousands of his fellow wanderers.

Yet, however, confidently your Committee are induced to trust to "the forwardness of the minds" of their fellow citizens, that "to their power, yea and beyond their power, they are willing of themselves that we should receive their gift," they cannot shut their eyes to the increasing difficulties which, from an increasing flood of Emigration, must inevitably surround you, at no distant period, without some more efficient and more permanent source of supply than voluntary contributions, however, liberally they may be bestowed. When the enormous claims already settled as it were upon the charity, of our truly charitable Townsmen, in the shape of voluntary contributions, are duly considered, it may fairly be concluded that to look for greater exertions, than have been made, this season in the cause of Emigration, would be an unreasonable expectation. Your Committee are moreover of opinion, that the burden of forwarding destitute Emigrants, (though it be a measure, which existing circumstances render absolutely necessary,) falls with undue pressure upon the inhabitants of this City, and must continue to do so, so long as it may be borne only by voluntary contribution—whereas it is obvious, that the whole Province should bear its share of that burden. And as it appears to your Committee, that there are no other means of obtaining a fair proportion of assistance from all parts of the Country, than by a grant to the Society from the Public Purse, they beg leave respectfully to recommend an application to the ensuing Session of the Provincial Parliament, praying for such assistance as they may, in their wisdom, think proper to grant. Your Committee consider the permanent establishment of Emigrant Societies, in QUEBEC and MONTREAL, a measure of very great importance, not only to the health of these two Cities, but to the general advantage of the Province, by bringing into active employment and consequent comparative independence, so many hands that might have otherwise been engaged in the degrading and demoralizing business of begging; by thus increasing the public resources, at a very cheap rate, and rescuing the Province, in so far, from all the evils which are generally found to follow in the train of habitual mendicancy: they consider it, moreover, a measure which the yearly increasing tide of Emigration, will no doubt continue to render more and more necessary. But it must be evident that no permanency can be expected for such institutions, without some more certain provision than public charity: besides, therefore, the consideration of the injustice of permitting so heavy a burden to fall upon the only two Cities of this Province, where it so happens, that Emigrants arrive in any considerable numbers, your Committee cannot doubt that the great importance of the proposed measure, will induce the Legislature to give to your representations the most favourable consideration.

Your committee beg to call the attention of the Society, to the consideration of certain grievous impositions practised by some Masters of Ships, upon such poor unsuspecting emigrants as have had the misfortune to fall into their power. The books of the Society contain statements of the impositions; with the names of the Masters by whom

they have been practised. These names your committee forbear, for the present, to mention—but some of the impositions are deserving of exposure, such as assurances held out to passengers at the time of embarkation, of nineteen or twenty days voyage; thereby inducing them to lay in a stock of provisions for that period only, and thus reducing them to the necessity of purchasing from the rapacious Master at such prices as the following viz: Pork, one shilling per lb., Oat Meal, nine shillings per Stone, Beef, one shilling & six pence per lb., Barley, one shilling per lb. Such practices, with some others so monstrous as almost to exceed belief, should, in the opinion of your committee, be met by the most strenuous efforts of every friend of humanity. They therefore beg leave to suggest the propriety, of adopting the most effectual means of representing such nefarious proceedings in the proper quarters, with the view of repressing them as far as possible.

Your Committee, in conclusion, beg to offer a single remark on the great benefits derived from the erection of the Emigrants' Shed, which has had the effect of removing from the crowded receptacles of poverty and filth, in different parts of the Town, or of affording shelter to, no less than Twelve Hundred pennyles and houseless strangers.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN BETHUNE, } Committee
DANL. TRACY, }
J. C. GUNDLACK, } Report.
Montreal, Emigrant Office, }
19th Oct., 1831.

RESOLUTIONS.

1st. Moved by John Finlay, Esq. and seconded by James Fisher, Esq.

"That the report be accepted and that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Rev. Mr. Bethune, Dr. Tracy and J. C. Gundlack, Esq. the committee of Report, for the able and satisfactory manner in which it has been drawn up."

2d. Moved by Robert Armour, Esq. and seconded by the Rev. B. B. Stevens,

"That considering the great advantages, which, from the Report just read it is evident have resulted from the labours of the association recently formed for the benefit of emigrants, it is expedient to establish a permanent Emigrant Society in this city."

3d. Moved by the Rev. John Bethune, and seconded by Dr. Tracy,

"That the burden of forwarding destitute Emigrants to different parts of Upper and Lower Canada has fallen with undue pressure upon the inhabitants of this city and must continue to do so until assistance can be obtained from all parts of the Province—and that it is therefore expedient as the only effectual means of obtaining such assistance that application be made to the Provincial Parliament at its next session praying for such aid, as they in their wisdom, may think proper, to grant."

4th. Moved by the Revd. Wm. Squire, and seconded by Thos. Phillips Esq.

"That five Gentlemen be chosen to form a committee to draft a petition in conformity with the foregoing resolution which shall be submitted to the general committee of the Emigrant society who are requested to take the necessary measures for bringing it before the Legislature."

5th. Moved by C. C. Sabrevois de Bieury, Esq. and seconded by Jacques Viger, Esq.

"That the fraudulent conduct of some masters of vessels carrying poor Emigrants from the Parent state to the Canadas calls loudly for public notice

and reprobation—and that it is highly expedient some decided, but discreet measures should be adopted for laying the same before the British public, in order to caution and guard poor emigrants against such nefarious practices for the future."

6th. Moved by the Rev. Messire Phelan, and seconded by C. C. Sabrevois de Bleury Esq.

"That the object of the foregoing resolution and the other more important objects of the Society would be powerfully promoted, by publishing in the British papers, the report on which these Resolutions have been founded."

7th. Moved by Joseph Lancaster, and seconded by Dr. Tracy,

"That the proceedings of this meeting be humbly laid before the Governor-in-Chief and that his Excellency be most respectfully requested to transmit both the Report and Resolutions to his Majesty's Secretary of state for the Colonial de-

partment—with such comments and recommendations as his Excellency's better judgement may suggest."

8th. Moved by John Finlay, Esq. and seconded simultaneously by several gentlemen,

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to J. C. Gundlack, Esq. for the assiduity, with which he has discharged the arduous duties of Recording Secretary to the Society."

9th. Moved by Dr. Tracey and seconded by Horatio Gates, Esq.

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to Horace Dickenson Esq. for the very great service rendered the Society and the Public, by the permission allowed the Society to transmit by his boats, free of expense, an unlimited number of Emigrants to the Upper province."

10th. Moved by the Revd. J. Bethune, and seconded by D. P. Ross, Esq.

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Rev. Gentlemen of the Seminary for their generous permission to make use of the Office of La Fabrique for transacting the business of the Society, and also for their cordial co-operation in seconding its views.—Thanks were also returned by the same resolution, to his Lordship the Bishop of Telmesse."

11th. Moved by the Rev. Mr. Bethune, and seconded by C. C. Sabrevois de Bleury, Esq.

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to Drs. Stephenson, Vallée and Demers, for their assiduous attention to the sick in the Emigrant shed."

Horatio Gates Esq. having left the Chair and John Finlay Esq. having been called thereto—the thanks of the Meeting were given to Horatio Gates Esq. for his very proper conduct in the Chair, and his active exertions on behalf of the objects of the Emigrant society.

